

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE COMMITTEE - July 17, 2008**

Members present, commencing at 4:00 PM, were Chipman, Levensalor, McCurdy, Newman, Pelta and Riesenbergl, constituting a majority. Tom Allen advised in advanced that he couldn't come. Probable absentees Haible and Bartley (and all others) are requested to please let us know in the future if they can't be present. If we know in advance there won't be a quorum, the meeting can be cancelled before attendees depart their homes.

### Election of Officers

David Chipman was elected permanent Chairman, and Dick Newman, Vice Chairman. Responsibility for transcribing and distributing the minutes ("the Secretary") will rotate by meeting, among members, from now on.

### Proposed Energy Conservation Assessment

Prescott McCurdy reported on conservation measures. Coleman Pulsifer, who was involved in design and construction of the addition to the Town Offices and the Television Station building, and is a well-regarded installer of solar thermal systems, has agreed to perform a solar energy assessment of potential for the two buildings for a fee of \$500.00. Prescott will work out with him a documents defining the proposed scope of the work, for submission to the Selectmen. Potential for a small wind turbine for these buildings is also to be assessed presently.

### Vampire Electricity Loads

Prescott submitted figures showing "Vampire Loads" of electricity, which are "Electricity Consumption – Standby Mode" loads. Many appliances that are thought to be turned off actually continue to consume power though thought to be drawing none. The total cost in the US is said to be \$3 billion annually. Game consoles, computers and plasma television sets are the three largest vampire consumers of power. These figures will be prepared in a form that can be used for widespread distribution.

### Tracking Power Consumption

Kristi Eiane has made available the heating and the electricity bills for the Town Offices for the last 24 months. The Committee will compile recommendations for conservation that it believes will help to further conserve energy when its efforts are completed. The format can be used to compare monthly bills in order to try to measure improvements.

### Visit To City of Saco

Kristi spoke several weeks ago with the City Administrator, to lay the ground work for a visit by Committee members. Howard Carter, Public Works Director (282-8236), is available to meet with members of the Energy Committee to learn about Saco's progressive energy policies and measures. Saco has installed a small wind turbine to provide electrical energy for the railroad station, is developing legislation to govern residential installation of solar units and small wind turbines, and provides

information to residents on its web site as to conservation measures (see [www.sacomaine.org](http://www.sacomaine.org)). The Committee intends to speak with Carter, and if possible, with the operations manager, to learn about the steps they have taken and to observe the railroad station turbine. I have spoken with Carter and requested a meeting in Saco on Thursday August 28, beginning at 10:30 AM, expected to last less than two hours. RTN will draw up a draft list of questions we may wish to ask, for the review of the Committee in advance of the visit and will call Carter to determine whether they are available on 8/28. Prescott, Debora, David, Trudi and RTN will participate in the visit. (Are any others interested?) If 8/28 doesn't work, Carter suggested 8/26 as a fallback date. His office address is 300 Main Street. I'm awaiting confirmation.

#### Visit to Mars Hill

The visit to Mars Hill to meet with City Administrator Ray Mercereau and to view the 28 turbines installed and in operation (see memo of June 5) has been rescheduled for Tuesday, October 7. Let RTN know whether you plan to participate. Discussion will commence at 2:00 PM at Mercereau's office.

#### Spiral Light Bulbs

A member of the Committee proposed at the last meeting that we consider a plan under which the Town would inventory spiral light bulbs, purchased at a discounted price, and sell them to residents. EKP pointed out that nearly all of these bulbs are made in China and in many cases, have proven to be defective. The Committee also recognizes that Harpswell would have to offer bulbs in a number of size ranges, which would complicate the task. We decided to drop the idea.

#### Proposal for Bus Service on Routes 123 and 24

EKP proposed at the last meeting that we investigate the possibility of providing public bus service on a continuing basis on these two routes. Further discussion indicated support for the concept, and EKP will investigate the matter and report to a future meeting. Federal and State subsidies may be available. RTN previously served as chairman of a public transportation authority and volunteered to help. Coastal Transit plans expanded service in 2009.

#### Educational Efforts

In keeping with the Committee's Mission Statement, Committee members endorsed Dave Chipman's and RTN's proposal to telecast a series of three programs, beginning in September. David has obtained agreement from former Governor Angus King to speak on conservation and alternative energy during the first telecast, which should attract a large listenership, if well publicized.

#### Disposal of Florescent Light Bulbs

Residents pay the Processing Center \$1.00 per bulb to dispose of florescent bulbs. EKP states that most residents simply throw the bulbs away, and as a result, mercury deposits end up in the ocean, often in fish. He thinks the charge should be removed so that more bulbs will be delivered to the center, resulting in more efficient disposal. We will investigate further and then make a recommendation to the Selectmen. Change certainly is feasible.

#### Next Meeting

The visit to Saco, proposed for August 28, will constitute the next meeting of the Committee. Bi-weekly meetings will be held beginning in September.

R. T. Newman